



Sine Institute of Policy & Politics

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

*Where the brightest minds engage
to promote common ground and
nonpartisan solutions.*

SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| Message from the Executive Director..... | 3 |
| Year In Review..... | 4 |
| Leadership..... | 10 |
| 5th Anniversary..... | 12 |
| Communications..... | 14 |
| Student Engagement..... | 16 |
| Program Spotlight..... | 19 |
| What's Next For Sine?..... | 20 |

Introduction

The Sine Institute is a laboratory for university-wide collaboration and an incubator for policy innovation, convening the best and the brightest in the public, private, academic, and nonprofit sectors, as well as journalism.

CONVENE, COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE

Today's interconnected world offers an unprecedented opportunity to bring together experts, top scholars, and students in research and scholarship to analyze and address the nation's most pressing challenges in a way that promotes common ground and nonpartisan policy solutions. The Sine Institute of Policy & Politics seizes that opportunity in a defining era for our democracy and the world. American University's capital city location at the nexus of government, policy, advocacy, and a growing international business center connects diverse perspectives from around the nation and the world.

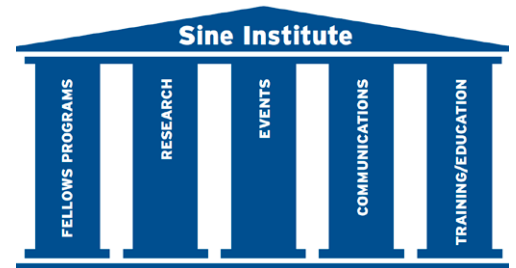
COMMITTED TO LASTING CHANGE

Alongside world-class academics and research-experienced practitioners in international and domestic affairs, leaders in business, nonprofits, and government, and one of the most politically-active student bodies in the U.S., Sine convenes conversations that are meant to bring real, lasting change in policy and politics. The Sine Institute stands apart through its focus on the role of business and the nonprofit community in public policy, the rise of importance of economic regions in the United States, the impact of international policy issues on U.S. affairs, and the contributions of young Americans to the policymaking process.



AREAS OF FOCUS

Drawing on their expertise in government, politics, academia, journalism, nonprofits, business, and other areas, Sine Institute Fellows uncover new policy solutions and problem solving methods informed by evidence and cross-sector perspectives. Each Fellow is asked to explore a timely aspect of policy and politics that will benefit from these dynamic conversations. In our interconnected world, policy changes ripple through our nation at the federal level and have significant consequences at the regional level. Those ripples cross sectors and impact international and national affairs as well as our local communities. This complex influence is at the core of the conversation topics discussed and debated by Sine Fellows.



Sine Institute Program Pillars

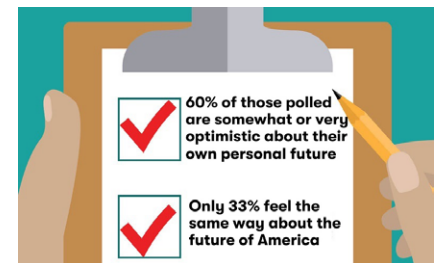
Fellows Program

The Fellows Program is a cornerstone of the Sine Institute. Each semester since 2019, Sine has hosted six Fellows who have been innovative leaders in government, politics, journalism, nonprofits, business, and other areas.



Research

The Sine Institute is a growing hub for policy research, collaborating with outside partners to conduct annual polls of young Americans, including a 2023 survey of 18-34 year-olds’ perspectives on their idea of the American Dream. These initiatives uncover data-driven information to challenge and inform policy makers.



Events

The Sine Institute curates a robust program of in-person and online events that bring together students, faculty, staff, and community members to offer insights on important issues and share solution-driven programs on the local, state, national, and global levels. In the 2023-2024 Academic Year, the Institute held 32 events.



Communications

Coverage of the Sine Institute can be found in prominent media outlets, including The Washington Post and Politico. Sine connects with a broad and diverse audience through earned media, a rapidly-growing social media presence, a monthly newsletter, and contributions from Executive Director Amy K. Dacey to media outlets on topics including young Americans, elections, campaigns, and more.



Training and Education

The Sine Institute provides opportunities for credit and non-credit training and education experiences that teach effective leadership, policy knowledge, and more, including a “Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program” which premiered in 2023. Sine’s programs coordinate academic and practitioner perspectives to provide an encompassing, holistic view of the issues.



A Message from Executive Director

Amy K. Dacey

It is hard to believe that in September of 2023 we celebrated the 5th anniversary of the Sine Institute. Myself and the AU community are so grateful for the milestone gift from AU alumnus, trustee, and entrepreneur Jeff Sine, SIS/BA '76, and Samira Sine, an advocate for women and children and a seasoned journalist. Their contribution and the creation of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University has indeed had an impact on the University, its students, faculty and staff, and alumni. I joined as the Institute's first director in 2019— I am proud to offer this report on the work that we have accomplished, and the opportunities that lie before us.

The Institute continues to find ways to engage more students, welcome new voices, expand our research, and reach new audiences through a wide range of in-person, virtual, and hybrid conversations. We also welcomed our sixth cohort of Sine Institute Spring Fellows.

Since I last reported to you in 2023, we have convened 32 programs that reached 2,224 attendees on issues that included conversations with journalists, chefs and restauraners, governors, former presidential administration staff, non-profit leaders, and former ambassadors. We discussed issues around disagreeing better, crisis communications, immigration and the food system, advocacy and using your voice, the Middle East, economic issues, AI, the future of our National Space program, foreign policy, a global economy and the future of tech as well as many other issues of the day.

We supported a new group of Student Associates who had the opportunity to work with these individuals. We also launched our second year of our Certification Program for Collaborative Leadership and engaged a student advisory group with representatives from every school on campus to help drive and innovate on the work we do as an institute.

I am also very proud to report that last year we launched a research program that focused on reimagining the American Dream. Along with

Generation Lab, Future Caucus, and the Close Up Foundation, we delved into issues with 18-34 year olds to get a better understanding of their vision of the American Dream, and the issues, obstacles, and opportunities that drive the dream. The work was supported by the Sine Team, a student advisory group of 9 incredible individuals, and our Senior Advisor Molly O'Rourke.

This next year promises new and exceptional programming as we develop a new group of Sine Fellows and Distinguished Lecturers. In addition, we are pursuing new programming that will bring people together university-wide to focus on policy issues of our greatest concern, as well as our new Eagle Exchange, which will bring students together to share their ideas and opinions around the issues of the day in an exchange designed to enlighten, challenge, and help create impact. We are also looking to launch a student-run Sine Institute Podcast to create online conversations that will reach an audience that wants to convene, communicate and collaborate. And of course, we will continue to build partnerships both on and off-campus that will help us expand all the critical work to which we are committed.

This report details our year June 30, 2023-July 1, 2024, and what the next year holds for the Sine Institute.

All the best,

Amy K. Dacey



September

9/11 - Distinguished Lecturer Event: Harnessing the Power of AI for National Security with **Horacio Rozanski**, President and CEO of Booz Allen Hamilton

9/15 - **Amy K. Dacey** presents at the Global Progress Summit in Montreal

9/21 - **Amy K. Dacey** presents at the Innovation Lab Launch Event

9/21 - Distinguished Lecturer Event: A View From the Top: Conversation on Life, Lessons, and Leadership with **David Rubenstein**

9/26 - **Sine** cohosts the Women Empowering Women Luncheon

2023-2024 Year in Review

November

11/8 - **Amy K. Dacey** presents at the Global Progress Summit in London

11/15 - Student Advisory Committee Meeting

December

12/3 - 2024 Student Associate Orientation

8/10 - **Amy K. Dacey** presents at the Future Caucus (formerly Millennial Action Project) Future Summit

August

10/1 - Student Advisory Committee Meeting

10/11 - **Katherine Miller** presents: *At the Table: A Chef's Guide to Advocacy*

10/15 - **Sine Institute 5 Year Anniversary Panel - Main Event at Family Weekend**

October

2/1 - Spring Fellows Launch Event

2/8 - **Kara Swisher** Seminar #1: The Tech Moment

2/11 - Student Advisory Committee Meeting

2/13 - **Patrice Willoughby** Seminar #1: Activism and Protest

2/15 - **Ambassador Dennis Ross** presents: What's Next? The Future of US/Israel Foreign Relations

2/22 - **Hon. Larry Hogan** Seminar #1: Overcoming Political Polarization

2/27 - **Hon. Manisha Singh** Seminar #1: The Economics and Impact of Globalization

2/29 - **Daniella Senior** Seminar #1: Immigration, Gender, and Food Systems

February



March

3/6 - **Patrice Willoughby** Seminar #2: The Process of Advocacy

3/7 - **Hon. Larry Hogan** Seminar #2: Leadership in Crisis

3/8 - **Kara Swisher** Seminar #2: Burn Book: A Discussion With Kara Swisher About Her Newly Released Book on the Tech Industry

3/20 - **Hon. Larry Hogan** Seminar #3: Whatever Happened and How Do We Fix It? How American Politics Got So Crazy

3/21 - **Daniella Senior** Seminar #2: Labor and Economic Policies in the Food Industry

Hon. Thomas Nides Seminar #2: A Balanced Perspective on the Future of the Middle East

3/26 - **Hon. Manisha Singh** Seminar #2: The Innovation Economy and New Technologies

3/28 - Distinguished Lecturer Event: **Jim Sciutto** Discusses His New Book: The Return of Great Powers: Russia, China, and the Next World War

4/8 - **Hon. Larry Hogan**: Career Conversation

4/10 - **Patrice Willoughby** Seminar #3: Political Engagement

Daniella Senior: Career Conversation

4/14 - Student Advisory Committee Meeting

4/16 - **Kara Swisher** Seminar #3: Taping: "On with Kara Swisher"

Daniella Senior Seminar #3: Immigrant Women as Catalysts of Change in Food Communities

4/17 - Distinguished Lecturer Event: The Sine Institute Presents **Pam Melroy**, Deputy Administrator, NASA

Patrice Willoughby: Career Conversation

4/18 - **Hon. Thomas Nides** Seminar #3: Case Study: How the Financial Crisis of 2008 Shaped a Generation and What Does It Mean for Us Today?

4/23 - **Kara Swisher**: Career Conversation

Hon. Manisha Singh Seminar #3: The Future Workforce

4/25 - **Hon. Thomas Nides**: Career Conversation

4/26 - **Hon. Manisha Singh**: Career Conversation

4/27 - End of Year Student Reception

April

5/6 - 2024 Research Student Advisory Committee Meeting #1

5/13 - 2024 Research Student Advisory Committee Meeting #2

May





2024 Sine Institute Fellows



Hon. Larry Hogan
62nd Governor of Maryland



Hon. Manisha Singh
Founder and Principal, Sunstone Strategy Group



Daniella Senior
Founder and CEO, Colada Shop



Kara Swisher
Host, On With Kara Swisher; Co-Host, Pivot for New York Magazine; Contributor, CNN



Hon. Thomas Nides
Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel



Patrice Willoughby
Senior Vice President, Global Policy and Impact, NAACP

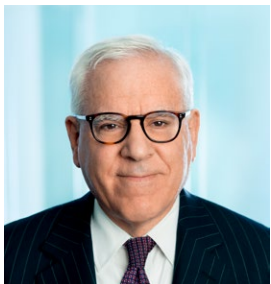


2023/2024 Distinguished Lecturers



Horacio Rozanski President and Chief Executive Officer, Booz Allen Hamilton

On September 11, 2023, Distinguished Lecturer Horacio Rozanski hosted a roundtable discussion with American University students before delivering his lecture on business, the future of AI, his story as an immigrant, and other topics.



David Rubenstein Co-Founder and Co-Chairman, The Carlyle Group

On September 21, 2023, Distinguished Lecturer David Rubenstein held a roundtable discussion with American University students before his lecture “View From The Top: A Conversation on Life, Lessons and Leadership with Carlyle Co-Founder David Rubenstein.”



Jim Sciutto Chief National Security Analyst, CNN and Anchor, CNN Newsroom with Jim Sciutto

On March 28, 2024, the Sine Institute hosted Distinguished Lecturer Jim Sciutto at American University for a discussion about the future of U.S. foreign relations and his new book, *The Return of Great Powers: Russia, China, and the Next World War*.



Pam Melroy Deputy Administrator, NASA

On April 17, 2024, 2024 Distinguished Lecturer Pam Melroy held a roundtable discussion with American University students before giving a lecture on leadership, the future of space exploration, STEM education, and more.





Guest Speakers

Dmitri Alperovitch

Chairman, Silverado Policy Accelerator, Co-Founder and former Chief Technology Officer, CrowdStrike

Kate Bedingfield

Principal of KJB LLC

Sylvia Burwell

President of American University

Wisdom Cole

National Director, NAACP Youth & College Division

Courtland Cox

Chair, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Legacy Project

Governor Spencer Cox

Amelia Chasse Alcivar

Former Chief of Staff to Governor Larry Hogan

Audie Cornish

CNN Anchor/Host, The Assignment with Audie Cornish

Joshua Dantzler

Sr. Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Specialist, Amtrak

Hon. Timothy Geithner

Chairman, Warburg Pincus and 75th Secretary of the Treasury

Nika Gogishvili-Matthews

Sine Institute Student Associate

Amy Hariani

Senior Advisor to the US-India Business Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Sarela Herrada

Co-Founder of SIMPLi

Pamela Hess

Executive Director, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture

Dr. Ana-Maria Jaramillo

Co-Founder and Co-Owner, La Tejana

Chris Krebs

Former Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Alyssa Levin

Sine Institute Student Associate

David Marchick

Dean of American University's Kogod School of Business

Aaron Miller

Sine Institute Student Associate

Katherine Miller

Chef, Advocate, Author, and Former Sine Fellow

Jocelyn Parker

Sine Institute Student Associate

Governor Jared Polis

Molly O'Rourke

Executive in Residence and Senior Advisor to the Sine Institute

Alexa Pappas

Managing Director and Global Head of Employment Law, Morgan Stanley

Steve Preston

President and CEO of Goodwill Industries International

Hiro Rodriguez

Former DocuSign Senior Executive

Ambassador Dennis Ross

Foluso Salami

Founder and Executive Chef, DUNDU

George Salem

Lawyer, former U.S. Solicitor of Labor, Founder and Chair of the Arab American Institute

Eduardo Sanchez

Sine Institute Student Associate

Rohan Singh

Sine Institute Student Advisory Committee Member and Polling Advisory Committee Member

Christopher Stockburger

Sine Institute Student Associate

Amy Weiss

Founder and CEO of Weiss Public Affairs

Hon. Jayme White

Former Deputy United States Trade Representative

Layla Zaidane

President and CEO of Future Caucus



Past Fellows and Distinguished Lecturers

2023

- Anna Deavere Smith
- Bill de Blasio
- Terence Samuel
- Alida Garcia
- Hon. Doug Ducey
- Hon. Mimi Walters
- David Rubenstein *
- Horacio Rozanski *

2022

- Julian Castro
- Hon. Barbara Comstock
- Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali
- Richard Fontaine
- Michele Norris
- Shannon Watts
- Ryan Gellert *

2021

- Suzanne P. Clark
- Ann Curry
- Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic
- Gary Locke
- Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster
- Governor Wes Moore
- Mayor Lori Lightfoot*
- Mayor Francis Suarez*
- * *Distinguished Lecturer*

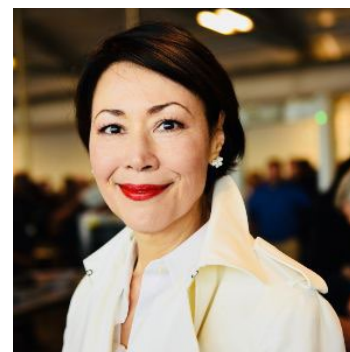


2020

- Alphonso Jackson
- Cody Keenan
- Janet Rodriguez
- John Tass-Parker
- Katherine Miller
- Susan Molinari
- Hon. Joe Hockey*
- Dina Powell*

2019

- Abdul El-Sayed
- Bill Haslam
- William Kristol
- Ruth Marcus
- Karen Zacarias
- Wes Bush*





Leadership

The Sine Institute is made possible through a milestone gift of \$10 million to the Change Can't Wait campaign from AU alumnus, trustee and entrepreneur Jeff Sine, SIS/BA '76, and Samira Sine, an advocate for women and children and seasoned journalist. The gift is the manifestation of the Sines' interest in making positive change that will inspire future generations of leaders. Our non-partisan, cross-disciplinary advisory board joins the Sines to lead the way in cultivating and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy K. Dacey is Executive Director of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University. For more than two decades, she managed prominent national organizations, advised leading elected officials and candidates, including President Barack Obama and Senator John Kerry, and counseled a variety of nonprofits and companies. During the 2016 Presidential Election, she served as the chief executive officer of the Democratic National Committee. From 2010 to 2013, Amy served as executive director of EMILY's List, the organization dedicated to electing Democratic women to national, state, and local offices, and led the organization's revitalization, restructuring and rebranding efforts. Amy has a master's degree in Political Science from American University.

STAFF BIOS

Molly O'Rourke is the Senior Advisor at the Sine Institute. Molly O'Rourke is an Executive in Residence in the School of Communication at American University and also serves as the Director of the MA program in Political Communication. She teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in Research Methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has more than 20 years' experience in the field of public opinion research, most recently as a partner at Hart Research in

where she led multiphase research project for dozens of advocacy and nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and media outlets, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and NBC News.

Ava Gadon is the Administrative Assistant of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University. She completed her undergraduate degree at American University, where she majored in International Studies. While at American, she completed the Community-Based Research Scholars program. After finishing her degree, Ava served as an Education Fellow at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life and as the Education Coordinator for Washington Hebrew Congregation, where she provided curricula, programming, and administrative support for synagogue religious schools.

Benjamin Bryant joined the Sine Institute as communications director in June 2022. Prior to his current role, he worked for six years on Capitol Hill, serving as the deputy press secretary for Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and communications director for Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA). Ben is originally from Rhode Island. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2012.

Yanlin Zhang is the assistant director of events with Sine. Yanlin is originally from Shanghai, China. She moved to the United States in 2017, and now lives in D.C. with her husband and daughter. She has significant expertise in planning, developing, and executing a wide variety of events, programs and activities, including overseeing events throughout their full life cycle. Before moving to the U.S., Yanlin has worked in both the private sector and in NGOs like charity galas and trade shows, multi-day conferences, C-level dinners, committee events and roundtables, etc.

Matthew Gillett is a second year Master of Public Administration candidate with an applied politics emphasis at American University in Washington, DC. Matthew is ecstatic to serve as a Graduate Assistant for the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics this year. Matthew was born and raised in Oklahoma City and is a proud Eagle Scout. Prior to graduate school Matthew attended the University of Lynchburg in Lynchburg, Virginia where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Samantha Weiss is a first year Master of Public Policy candidate at American University's School of Public Affairs, with a concentration in social policy. She currently serves as a graduate assistant with the Sine Institute of Politics and Policy. Prior to starting her MPP, Samantha graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and a certificate in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in May 2023.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Danielle C. Gray, former Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary in the Obama Administration.

Anita McBride, former Assistant to President George W. Bush, former Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush, and current Executive-in-Residence at AU's School of Public Affairs.

Janet Rodriguez, Currently Head of Internal Communications, WhatsApp; Former White House Correspondent, Univision; 2020 Sine Fellow

Frances Townsend, (AU SPA/BA '82), former Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (2004-2008) and current National Security Analyst on CBS News.

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

Deval Patrick

Philip Zelikow

Michelle Flournoy



5 Years of Sine

On September 25, 2018, the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics launched as a laboratory for university-wide collaboration and an incubator for policy innovation, convening the best and brightest to promote common ground and nonpartisan solutions.

35 Sine Fellows

10 Distinguished Lecturers

300 Guest Speakers

237 Events Engaging

14,145 People

292 Students

Support Sine's Work:

163 Associates

65 Advisory Group Members

55 Student/University Cosponsors

9 Graduate Assistants

People Engaged Worldwide

64 Countries on 6 Continents

6,369 Followers

On X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube

86,674

YouTube Views

17,330

Facebook/YouTubeLive

4,657

Sine of the Times

Newsletter Subscribers

\$10M Founding Gift

from Jeff Sine, SIS/BA '76, and Samira Sine

6 Focus Areas

Government

Politics

Academia

Journalism

Nonprofits

5 Program Pillars

Fellows/Distinguished Lecturers

Research

Events

Communications

Training and Education

5 Things We've Learned in 5 Years

- 1. Consensus Exists**
Bipartisanship is alive and well, even if we don't see it every day on TV or the internet.
- 2. There Is a Path Forward**
The lessons we've learned from our most challenging political times will strengthen our policymaking and problem-solving.
- 3. Change Is Possible**
The building blocks of positive change can come in many forms, particularly when you bring together a variety of disciplines, perspectives, and lived experiences.
- 4. Results are Key**
Focus on the substance first, and the politics will follow.
- 5. Youth Will Bring Change**
Today's youth are engaged, willing to compromise, and ready to lead the effort to bring change.



Sine Celebrates 5 Years

5th Anniversary Celebration and Panel Discussion

On October 14, 2023, on the Saturday night of American University's 2023 Family Weekend, the Sine Institute celebrated its 5 Year Anniversary with a panel discussion that drew over 850 attendees.

The evening also included a gathering that included founders Jeff and Samira Sine, AU President Sylvia Burwell, board members, students, and other friends of the Sine Institute,

The focus of the panel was Sine's recent poll of what a "reimagined" American Dream means to young people and what's getting in the way, optimism about the future, social media, enthusiasm about voting in the 2024 Presidential Election, and more.

The discussion was moderated by former White House Communications Director and CNN commentator Kate Bedingfield and featured panelists Goodwill Industries President and CEO Steven Preston, Future Caucus President and CEO Layla Zaidane, and Sine Institute Student Advisor Rohan Singh (SIS '24).

The event was cosponsored by Kennedy Political Union and Bipartisan Group of American University.



5 Years of Making Change

Now in its 6th year, the Sine Institute is proud to have hosted 35 Sine Fellows, 10 Distinguished Lecturers, and 300 guest speakers who have taken part in 237 engaging events.



Communications and Media

Sine Institute events and initiatives have earned coverage in multiple media outlets, from the Washington Post and CNN to National Public Radio (NPR), Politico, USA Today, ABC News, CQ Roll Call, Forbes, The Hill, and other publications. In 2024, in a first for the Sine Institute, Sine Fellow Kara Swisher's Sine Seminars were broadcast nationally on CNN's "The Assignment with Audie Cornish" and VOX Media's "On With Kara Swisher" podcasts.

The Sine Institute has cultivated a robust network of prominent reporters inside and outside of Washington D.C. and internationally, and is working each each year to bolster its media presence and elevate Sine's profile by ensuring our message and accomplishments are recognized both externally and internally in AU publications.

In the 2023-2024 Academic Year, Sine Executive Director Amy K. Dacey offered her commentary to numerous publications on initiatives like the Sine American Dream Poll as well as on political campaigns, young people in politics, ballot initiatives, policy, and more.

The Sine Institute partners with media outlets on big announcements and other initiatives, and continues to work towards fostering media relationships that will lead to increased awareness of Sine's work.

Training and Education

The Sine Institute continually fosters relationships with members of the AU community and works hard to involve undergraduate and graduate AU students in Sine programs and events. Each year, we offer an opportunity to earn a Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate by attending 6 Sine Seminars and writing a reflection paper on lessons learned and takeaway thoughts. The award includes a LinkedIn badge and serves as a recognition of students committing themselves to Sine's goal of convening diverse perspectives and meaningful dialogue in search of solutions to pressing issues.

AU students are given the opportunity to be involved with Sine as each year as Student Associates for that year's Fellows, helping to craft seminar content and ensuring that events are run efficiently and at the highest level. The Sine Institute is also joined each academic year by a group of Student Advisors - bipartisan students from across campus to guide and inspire Sine as the next generation of leaders by boosting student engagement, providing counsel on programming, and offering recommendations for building Sine's reach at AU.

The Sine Institute also collaborates with professional data-gathering entities to conduct annual polls of young Americans nationwide, including a 2023 collaboration with data intelligence company Generation Lab alongside partners Future Caucus and the Close Up Foundation that asked young Americans questions about the American Dream, what it means to them, and what is getting in their way as they work to achieve it. This and other initiatives seek and uncover data-driven information to challenge and inform policy makers, helping to define the future of the nation and world.

Keys to a Reimagined American Dream

“absolutely essential” or “very important”

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Happiness and fulfillment | 87% |
| Freedom to make life decisions | 87% |
| Meaningful personal relationships | 82% |
| Financial success | 81% |

Top 3 Reported Barriers to a Reimagined American Dream

| | |
|---|-----|
| Lack of financial resources | 62% |
| Mental health challenges | 48% |
| Lack of trust in government and social institutions | 42% |

Research and Polling

In the 2023/2024 academic year, the Sine Institute conducted the “Reimagining the American Dream: Views From Young Americans” poll in partnership with outside partners Future Caucus, Close Up Foundation, and Generation Lab. The poll asked the important question of what the American Dream actually means for young Americans as they try to sort through the churning dynamics shaping their lives, including spiraling technological innovation, major economic transitions, changing attitudes about social justice, and what constitutes a “good” or “successful” life after a devastating global pandemic with profound impacts on their physical and mental health.

This research was an investment in understanding young Americans’ goals for the future as well as the barriers and support they experience as they pursue those goals, and the data is important information for those involved in setting policy and shaping institutions that closely intersect with young Americans’ lives. The data uncovers unique insight on what the American Dream means for young people today and what leaders need to know in order to support today’s youth in turning their dreams into reality.

The Sine Institute worked with an advisory group of nine American University graduate and undergraduate students from across campus to help design the poll, formulate questions, and provide feedback on the survey methodology and results. The student committee also offered suggestions for further research topics.

This autumn, in the lead up to the 2024 Presidential Election, the Sine Institute is excited to conduct a new poll of young Americans focusing on their feelings regarding upcoming elections, the traits they seek in leaders, and more. The poll is intended to provide new and vital information to policy makers as they work towards a secure and prosperous future for young people and our nation.



Student Engagement

2023-2024 SINE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sine Student Advisory Committee is a group of student visionaries from across campus elected to guide the institute and inspire the next generation of leaders. This committee discusses student engagement, programming, and recommendations for Fellows and speakers at the Sine Institute. The participating schools are the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), the Kogod School of Business (KSB), the School of Communication (SOC), the School of Education (SOE), the School of International Service (SIS), the School of Public Affairs (SPA), and the Washington College of Law (WCL) Our committee members are:

Samantha Hessel, SPA
Committee Chair

Emma Alizadeh, SIS

Benjamin Austin, SOC

Alexis Berg, WCL

Mary Burns, SOE

Sage Duarte, SOC

Katherine Gleason, CAS

Meera Hajarnis, KSB

Michael Karam, WCL

Pablo Landsmanas Gary, SIS

Julia Lewis, SPA

Anna Russell, SOE

Zachary Taylor, KSB

Colin Wechsler, SPA

2023 SINE INSTITUTE RESEARCH STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sine Research Student Advisory Committee is a group of highly committed students that gives essential insight into Sine's polling projects.

Jane Fusco

Logan Galimi

Kaniya Harris

Samantha Hessel

Rohan Singh

Ifeanyi Umunna

Emily Warshaw



2023-2024 SINE STUDENT ASSOCIATES

Each Sine Institute Fellow is assigned Student Associates to assist in designing, planning, organizing, and executing their seminar series. These students help ensure that Fellows' seminars are well-publicized, well-attended, well-documented, and an overall success. Bolded names indicate a Lead Student Associate.

Governor Larry Hogan's Student Associates

Rohan Singh, SPA

Kathryn Ellison, SPA
Samantha Hessel, SPA
Lindred Murphy, CAS and SPA
Andrew Murray, SPA
Anshusree Pokuru, SPA

Hon. Thomas Nides's Student Associates

Sydney Gough, SPA

Tyler Eliades, SPA
Katherine Gleason, CAS
Alexander Moskovitz, SPA
Liam White, SIS

Hon. Manisha Singh's Student Associates

Nika Gogishvili-Matthews, KSB

Aaron Miller, SPA
Alyssa Levin, SPA
Jocelyn Parker, SIS
Eduardo Sanchez, SIS
Christopher Stockburger, SIS

Kara Swisher's Student Associates

Anshul Shukla, SPA and KSB

Gabriella Biello, SPA
Becca Delbos, SPA
Nora Lewis, CAS
Finnegan O'Donnell, SPA
Eva Turner, SPA

Patrice Willoughby's Student Associates

Katie Nowicki, SPA

Tyler Brown-Dewese, SPA

Eliana Dente, SPA
Julia Lewis, SPA
Alexia Osbourne, SPA
Sean Rapley, SPA

General Student Associates

Sara Carney, SOC
Sydney Weinstein, SIS
Matthew Wiggins, SPA

2024 RECIPIENTS OF THE COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

The Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate program provides a unique opportunity for AU undergraduate students to expand their knowledge of Politics and Policy in today's world while exploring and developing their individual leadership styles, skills and values. 25 students completed their certificates this year.

Faith Bennett

Beatrice Berle

Sara Carney

Eliana Dente

Cecilia Duncker

Jacob Federbusch

Matthew Gillett

Sade Goodridge

Kennedy Greenstein

Maxwell Harris

Rijuta Kalantre

Julia Lewis

Annika McCanne

Patrick Medvitz

Alexander Moskovitz

Alexia Osbourne

Anshusree Pokuru

Ariyana Rajani

Kevin Reeves

Janos Szani

Ming-Tso Tai

Paulina Tes

Do Sinh Tran

Sydney Weinstein

Liam White





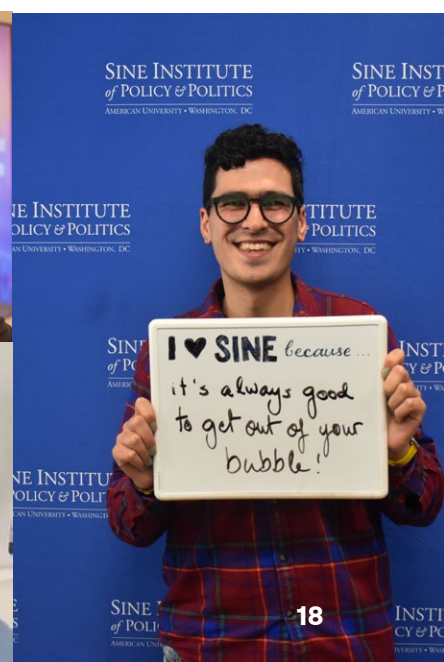
Hear From Our Students

“The Sine Institute has encouraged me to extend my learning beyond the classroom, connecting with both present and future leaders of America. Through this opportunity, I’ve found purpose in contributing to meaningful discourse about how each of us truly can influence the future of our society.” – Nika Gogishvili-Matthews, Student Associate (KSB)

“As a member of the Sine Institute Student Advisory Board, I’ve had the honor of collaborating with a diverse group of peers. Through our work, I’ve especially enjoyed your board meetings, where I’ve felt empowered to share my expertise and connect other organizations on our campus to collaborate with Sine!” – Emma Alizadeh-Dolce, Student Advisory Board Member (SIS)

“Overall, the Sine Institute provided an enriching experience packed with diverse perspectives that will undoubtedly shape my approach to leadership, collaboration, and driving positive change throughout my career. I am grateful for these learnings and the chance to engage with and learn from such accomplished fellows.” - Alexander Moskovitz, Certificate Recipient (SPA)

“My relationship with Sine began a year ago, when I attended my first event, Cody Keenan’s book talk. After that, I couldn’t stop thinking about the fact that I, very uniquely, had an opportunity for my college experience that no other school could recreate in the Sine Institute... This opportunity allowed me to experience some of the most striking conversations with the people on the forefront of issues that are perpetually on our news cycles. I had what felt like a front row seat to the positions of the future.” - Sara Carney, Certificate Recipient (SOC)





2023-2024 Sine Program Spotlight

Career Conversations

In spring 2024, Sine Institute Fellows hosted Sine Career Conversations to discuss their career journey and offer advice on work and life to American University students and community. These engaging and intriguing discussions are moderated by American University alumni and cosponsored by the American University Alumni Association and the American University Career Center.

Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program

In the 2023/2024 academic year, students at American University were given an opportunity to earn a Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate by attending 6 Sine Seminars and writing a reflection on what they took away from Sine events that semester. The award includes a LinkedIn badge and serves as a recognition of the student's commitment to the Sine Institute and its work.

Distinguished Lecturer Roundtables

On the day of their events, Sine Distinguished Lecturers offer exclusive roundtable discussion opportunities for students representing every school and college at American University. In fall 2023, Sine Distinguished Lecturers Horacio Rozanski and David Rubenstein each hosted roundtables that served as forums for discussion on careers, life, business, mentorship, and success. In spring 2024, Distinguished Lecturer Pam Melroy also held a roundtable event, where she and students from across campus discussed careers, leadership, STEM education, and more.

Polling

Each year, the Sine Institute partners with data gathering organizations and outside partners to conduct a national poll of young Americans' attitudes towards politics, policy, leadership, democracy, and more. Sine's 2023 polling project focused on young peoples' ideas of the pillars of the American Dream, whether the American Dream has changed over time, and what's getting in the way of achieving it. The poll received prominent media coverage, and the Sine Institute partnered with National Public Radio (NPR) on an exclusive story on the poll launch and on the implications of the poll results on elections and the nation's future.





What's Next for Sine?

As we look forward to the future Sine will engage in events, online programming, research programming and other substantive non-event related work. To address this need, we have designed working “pillars,” or areas we have identified for possible funding and programming opportunities:

These pillars include:

- Fellows/Distinguished Lecturer Program
- Research and Polling
- Events with Partners
- Communications
- Training and Education



These pillars were created to ensure that future programming would align with the mission and key issue areas of Sine's strategic plan.

One of Sine's hopes for the future is to expand on the academic opportunities that we provide for AU students. Last year Sine designed a pilot program “Certificate in Collaborative Leadership” through our Spring Fellows program that had robust participation, and more than half of those applying receiving their certificate. Sine strengthened and expanded the program for Spring 2024, and we are building a newly-designed fall semester certificate program where students can earn the Sine Institute Certificate for Innovative Communication (CIC).

We are currently designing our third annual polling project for Sine engaging 18-34 year olds and gathering their impressions on key topics and areas of interest, such as our institutions, policy issues, and how they engage in policy and politics.

In addition, Sine would like to create a space for people of the D.C. community and beyond to share ideas, find opportunities to collaborate, and work toward policy solutions to some of our most challenging issues. We are developing a university wide program to have a yearlong deeper dive into one policy area. In addition, we will launch our Eagle Exchange program, bringing diverse student views together for conversation and understanding. This program was a concept idea from one of our students and we are partnering with various student groups on the program.

As we find new and collaborative ways to engage students, we are also piloting a Sine Podcast called the Let's Talk Project. This student-run initiative will bring together diverse and well known speakers to talk through the various perspectives on the issues of the day and conclude each program with a “solutions section” to talk about work that can be done in these areas and how we can all get involved.

The Sine Institute received its first endowed gift from former trustee Thomas Gottschalk and Barbara Gottschalk. Their gift establishes the Dan and Debby McGinn Endowed Fund for the Sine Institute, named in honor of the Gottschalks and McGinns' shared commitment to encourage informed dialogue and understanding regarding significant public policy issues. The endowed fund will support activities of the institute, particularly for lectures, panel discussions, or similar events annually involving Sine Fellows, university faculty, and other experts to consider and discuss contemporary policy problems and solutions. The gift, made during the university's historic Change Can't Wait campaign, will amplify the institute's work to convene the best and brightest minds to tackle pressing policy issues.



SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS

“The Sine Institute is a project that started as a place where people could come together, exchange ideas, and be exposed to ideas that they maybe hadn’t heard before, maybe change some minds, certainly open some minds. My wife Samira and I have been watching with great enthusiasm as Amy Dacey, staff, and really all the students and faculty at AU and the Sine Fellows have contributed so much to understanding and knowledge.”

- Jeff Sine SIS/BA ‘76 (Sine Institute Founder)



“The Sine Institute of Policy and Politics brings together thought leaders with a wide range of perspectives to engage on our most pressing issues. Through Sine, our students and our community have had the chance to engage with and learn from a former governor, ambassador, astronaut, journalist, entrepreneur, and others in just this academic year alone. And, as part of American University’s commitment to experiential learning, our students play a key role in the Sine Institute’s programming, engage in career conversations with Sine fellows, and earn the Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate. I look forward to continuing to work with Sine to convene, collaborate, communicate, and build lasting change.”

- President Sylvia Burwell (American University)



“American University is very near and dear to my heart. The ability to impact a new generation of students in a positive manner, to hopefully help them in their thought process of what they want to do in the future - I consider it an honor and a privilege to participate as a Fellow at the Sine Institute. I want students to take away from my seminars not just what the world is going to be like, but how we should think about it.”

- Hon. Manisha Singh WCL/LLM (2024 Sine Institute Fellow)



“Thank you to the Sine Institute for 5 years of bringing together unique viewpoints, driving change, and making us all part of the solution. You’ve grown so much in 5 years, and brought in so many incredible voices from a variety of fields. I can’t wait to see what’s in store for the next 5 years as you encourage everyone to convene, communicate, and collaborate.”

- Hon. Wes Moore, Sine Institute Anniversary Video (Governor of Maryland, 2021 Sine Institute Fellow)





Keep Up With The Sine Institute

Social Media

The Sine Institute shares its upcoming and past events, photos of events, attendees, research, and media coverage on its social media and within the Sine Institute Newsletter. You can #FindSine on our X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube pages.



@AUSineInstitute



@AUSineInstitute



@AUSineInstitute



AU Sine Institute of Policy & Politics



Sine Institute of Policy & Politics

Learn More



Website



Spring 2024



Email Updates

CONVENE

COMMUNICATE

COLLABORATE

SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS